

November 27, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

Sir:

I should like to submit the following report of the events occurring in the basement on November 24, 1963.

I was in a group of detectives under Captain Jones and Lieutenant Smart on November 24, 1963, at about 11:30 a.m. or a little later. The group was to assist in keeping press men and photographers back while Captain Fritz and his men brought Lee Harvey Oswald down from the City Jail to an armored truck waiting at the top of the basement ramp. The Dallas Sheriff's Office was waiting with the armored truck to transfer Oswald to the County Sheriff's office for confinement.

I was standing at the northwest corner of the driveway opening in the basement approximately 20 feet east of the jail office door.

As Captain Fritz came out of the jail door and came east toward the parking area in the basement, he was followed closely by Lee Harvey Oswald with detectives holding both arms and other detectives immediately behind Oswald. As I saw Captain Fritz and then looked at Oswald and the detectives holding and following him, they reached a point just past the corner where they would turn right to go up the ramp approximately 75 feet to the waiting armored car.

I was looking to the right back toward the jail office and hall in front of the jail office. At this time I heard a loud noise like a gun firing or a firecracker. I never saw anyone as I was looking right and the sound was muffled as if it were a gun jammed close to someone and fired. As I looked back left, six or eight detectives or more grabbed a man and wrestled him to the floor. I did not touch him as there were too many officers on him already.

The officers carried the suspect back to the jail office. During this time I was watching press men and photographers to keep down any interference. I just stayed in the immediate area and tried to keep anyone from leaving. I then went to the jail office door and kept unauthorized persons out and, as I looked in, I saw the suspect clearly lying on the floor, being held by Police.

I guarded the jail door until they took Oswald out to a waiting ambulance in this same basement driveway. I saw

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Oswald on the stretcher carried from the jail office to the waiting ambulance. I remained in the basement, and on orders from Captain Jones and Lieutenant Smart, checked everyone coming or going for the next one to two hours.

I never saw the suspect or the gun before the shot was fired, then the officers covered the suspect and took him to the jail office. I never saw the gun after it was fired, but tried to keep press and all back so the officers could handle the suspect and Oswald. This is all I know or saw.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. Watson

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Detective
Criminal Investigation Division